

**The Times Dispatch**

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1906.

The beauty that shimmers in the  
yellow afternoon of October—whoever  
could clutch it?—Ralph Waldo  
Emerson.

Midnight Closing.

In order to fully understand the question of midnight closing, it must be remembered that the Council is primarily responsible for the present condition. Judge Witt grants the license that makes the bar possible at all, and presumably if the police reported that any given bar was so disorderly as to be a danger to the whole community, Judge Witt would revoke the license.

But the responsibility does not rest entirely upon the Judge of the Huntingdon court or the Police Department. As it is now, the Judge can and should revoke a license when the licensee conducts such a place as is in the court's opinion a detriment or a danger to the peace and dignity of the city. But, and note well the point, it is not in itself unlawful to sell whiskey to rowdy negroes or white riff-raff all night long. A Judge might well doubt the propriety of fitness of allowing a bar to remain upon all night, but so long as it is not against the law, the mere fact that all sorts of questionable persons are loafing and drinking from midnight to sunrise in any bar-room is not sufficient ground to close a resort against which other evidence is lacking. But evidence is not lacking.

The great majority of the arrests for drunkenness occur after midnight. The murders, the shooting, the affairs occur in nearly every instance long after an hour at which the bar-rooms are closed in London, in Boston and all over Virginia. Experience has demonstrated the wisdom of earlier closing in these and other cities and towns. Why is it not equally desirable for Richmond?

In answer, it is said that because the vast majority of Richmond's citizens are peaceable, sober, law-abiding and law-abiding, there is no need to restrain or restrict the hours for the sale of liquor or to remove the temptations which have proved so destructive in other communities.

To The Times-Dispatch it seems that because Richmond is so overwhelmingly a home-going law-abiding city, it should be protected from the disorders, the expense and the danger which are directly traceable to that small portion of the inhabitants who from weakness or inclination, rather than from pure, prefer to take the midnight dives.

Even if this condition did not exist, considerations of policy and humanity would suggest the closing of the bars at a reasonable hour, if only for the sake of those who want to go home, but for those who do not.

To prevent crime, to safeguard the public from their own frailties, to remove unnecessary temptation from the path of those who are too weak to abstain or too perverse to turn aside, is an important and necessary part of government.

In this year's paper further light is thrown on this condition and the question must be faced. Will strong powers be closed at midnight and the bars left open?

If the doors of the bars have to be preserved now, will this be accomplished by legislation alone for Richmond?

Burton's Warning.

The wife of former Senator Joseph R. Burton of Kansas, said that she was never so proud of her husband as when he was on his way to go to serve out a criminal sentence. We do not know what this should have been the supreme moment of her life, but that is her affair. It was at least a very pretty speech and deserves that Mrs. Burton is a young and loyal wife. Presently she does not realize that she has been committed a crime. If she did not want her husband to do this, she could have stopped him in time.

Old Subscribers: The Platt amendment does not provide means for the amendment of Ben T. C. Platt, as you suggest. Don't get your facts mixed.

Mayor Ross of Kansas City, has just been fined \$100 for contempt of court. And not by any other name, either.

The present behavior of the James recalls that once popular word, ramifications.

The Chairman makes a good deal of noise for such a little paper-work.

Failure to close the bars promptly will doubtless land somebody behind them.

Also the bartender occasionally follows the bartender.

Reverend makers declare themselves ladies on the market.

Did you ever see your Saph?

Joe River is hereby invited to back up.

Lower Fares Pay.

When the New Haven Railroad Company reduced its passenger rate to two cents, the officials estimated that 100,000 would be lost. It was a mere guess.

The Sunday Times-Dispatch has the negro problem in its series entitled An Interesting Chronicle, which deals daily with the question as it is raised today. Judging from the Platt amendment, the question involved in the new rate throughout the South, where the Southern Central charter was given, is a question of race.

Northern and Southern roads will have to make a full disclosure of rates to the public, the receipts already showed that the negroes were getting more.

Mr. Edward Everett Hale, D. D., celebrated Sunday, a half century in the pulpit of the South Congregational Society of Boston, was the speaker at the anniversary service, when he addressed the audience.

Gordon papers are commenting on the success of a small white boy being purged from a school, and the negroes are taking a stand. The New York Star is bringing up for it all—Southern Leader.

Mr. Hale's views on tariff need consideration.

Philadelphia and the South.

The following statement appeared in the last issue of the Boston Advertiser:

"The negro problem in the South is a serious problem in its aspect, except in the negroes are better off in the South than they are in the North. The negroes are better off in the South than they are in the North, and we do not think that the negroes are better off in the South than they are in the North."

Mr. Hale's statement was widely received in the South, and it was agreed that the negroes are better off in the South than they are in the North, and we do not think that the negroes are better off in the South than they are in the North.

Some of the corporation managers have taken much the same view. They know they were violating the law, but they finally reached the conclusion that what

they did not like should not be produced.

Soon after the riot in Atlanta, the Philadelphia Ledger published a leading editorial, which was as thoroughly Southern in sentiment and expression as any publication that has appeared in a Southern newspaper. The editor showed that he fully understood the situation in the South. In fact, we have heard that he is a Southern man. Hence our amazement that such a slander uttered by an irresponsible negro should have been given circulation and half-way sanction by so decent a newspaper as the Ledger.

It is announced from Philadelphia that, in answer to the many appeals of the Christians in Japan, Bishop Foss will set sail from New York on October 27th as one of those commissioned by a national conference to lay the foundation of a united Methodist movement in that country. His mission, says the Inquirer, is to form an actual union of the three Methodist missions which are stationed in Japan. At present each of these three missions is governed by a different body—the Methodist Episcopal church, the Southern Methodist Church and the Canadian Methodist Church. The New Methodist Church of Japan will be supported for a short time after its organization by contributions from this country. But it is expected that it will soon be able to support itself. It will have its own bishop and will elect the necessary officers for its government. The Orientals are taking a great interest in the movement, and it is thought that Methodism will soon have a strong foothold in Japan.

Japan is one of the most progressive nations of the world, and it ought to be a fine field for Christian endeavor and exploitation.

Do the business men of Richmond realize that Baltimore is going to have a great exhibit at the Jamestown Exposition, and that she is going to use it in advertising her advantages and extending her trade? Baltimore is a competitor of Richmond, and we must not allow her to come to our own show and make a better exhibit than we make. In fact, Richmond ought to eclipse all her competitors by having a building of her own, filled from cellar to garret with her own products. It would give such an advertisement as she has never had, and would be well worth the expenditure.

The more we become acquainted with mosquitoes and their habits the more tame we are that extended mosquito ranks never take place near water and breed places only one hundred feet from one's door. They are created with forethought, or perhaps they are reduced in number by the presence, although there may be other breeding-places two hundred feet away.

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